

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Spectroscopic characterisation of microlensing events<sup>★,★★</sup>

## Towards a new interpretation of OGLE-2011-BLG-0417

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### ABSTRACT

The microlensing event OGLE-2011-BLG-0417 is an exceptionally bright lens binary that was predicted to present radial velocity variation at the level of several  $\text{km.s}^{-1}$ . Pioneer radial velocity follow-up observations with the UVES spectrograph at the ESO – VLT of this system clearly ruled out the large radial velocity variation, leaving a discrepancy between the observation and the prediction. In this paper, we further characterise the microlensing system by analysing its spectral energy distribution (SED) derived using the UVES spectrum and new observations with the ARCoIRIS (CTIO) near-infrared spectrograph and the Keck adaptive optics instrument NIRC2 in the J, H, and Ks bands. We determine the mass and distance of the stars independently from the microlensing modelling. We find that the SED is compatible with a giant star in the Galactic bulge and a foreground star with a mass of  $0.94 \pm 0.09 M_{\odot}$  at a distance of  $1.07 \pm 0.24 \text{ kpc}$ . We find that this foreground star is likely the lens. Its parameters are not compatible with the ones previously reported in the literature ( $0.52 \pm 0.04 M_{\odot}$  at  $0.95 \pm 0.06 \text{ kpc}$ ), based on the microlensing light curve. A thoughtful re-analysis of the microlensing event is mandatory to fully understand the reason of this new discrepancy. More importantly, this paper demonstrates that spectroscopic follow-up observations of microlensing events are possible and provide independent constraints on the parameters of the lens and source stars, hence breaking some degeneracies in the analysis. UV-to-NIR low-resolution spectrographs like X-SHOOTER (ESO – VLT) could substantially contribute to this follow-up efforts, with magnitude limits above all microlensing events detected so far.

**Key words.** Techniques: spectroscopic; Techniques: high angular resolution; Stars: individual: OGLE-2011-BLG-0417

### 1. Introduction

The gravitational microlensing is an efficient technique to detect small and cool exoplanets (e.g. Beaulieu et al. 2006) from 0.5 kpc to the Galactic bulge, in stellar populations not probed by other planet-detection techniques. However, as the other planet-detection techniques, microlensing detections are not free of false positives (e.g. Hwang et al. 2013; Han et al. 2016) and degeneracy in the analysis (Bennett et al. 2014). These effects make difficult the interpretation of the detected signals. Recent high-angular resolution follow-up observations with adaptive optics in large telescopes demonstrated that it is often possible to confirm and to refine the physical parameters of the planetary systems once the microlensing event is over. This has been achieved with the very large telescope (VLT, Kubas et al. 2012), the Keck telescope (Batista et al. 2015), and the Hubble space telescope (HST, Bennett et al. 2015).

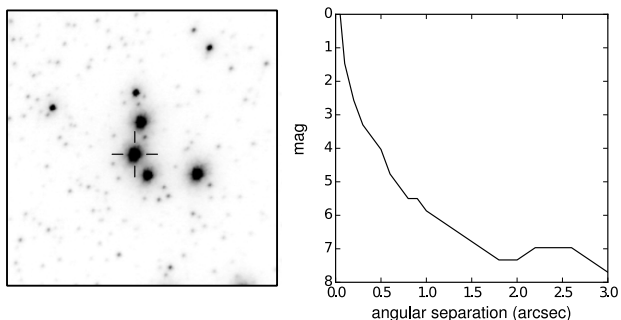
In order to test the predictive value of microlens models, Gould et al. (2013) proposed a new and independent route: in some cases when the lens is bright enough, one can detect the reflex motion of the lens through radial velocity observations.

The system OGLE-2011-BLG-0417 (hereafter OGLE-417, Shin et al. 2012) was presented by Gould et al. (2013) as the best target to test this, being a relatively bright lens ( $V \sim 18.2$ ) with expected radial velocity variation at the level of several  $\text{km.s}^{-1}$ . Following these predictions, Boisse et al. (2015) attempted the confirmation of this system by radial velocity using the UVES spectrograph of the ESO – VLT. The data showed no variation with a *rms* of  $\sim 100 \text{ m.s}^{-1}$ . The reason suggested by Boisse et al. (2015) to explain their non detection is the presence of a relatively bright star, chance-aligned with the microlensing source and lens. This star would be the one for which the radial velocities were measured. In this scenario, the lens binary is much fainter than predicted by Gould et al. (2013), hence not detected in the UVES spectra.

In this paper, we revisit the results of Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013), on OGLE-417 in the light of the new constraints from Boisse et al. (2015). We obtained new high angular-resolution imaging and near-infrared spectroscopic observations, complementing the optical UVES data already published by Boisse et al. (2015). These data allowed us to derive the spectral energy distribution (SED) of the few stars that are chance aligned along the line of sight with OGLE-417 (see Section 2). We analyse the SED using a method inspired from the validation of transiting exoplanets in Section 3 and present the results in Section 4. In Section 5 we compare our results with

<sup>★</sup> Based on observations made with ESO Telescope at the Paranal Observatory under program ID 092.C-0763(A) and 093.C-0532(A).

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**Fig. 1.** Left: High-resolution image ( $5'' \times 5''$ ) of OGLE-417 obtained by the Keck AO system in the Ks-band. North is up, East is left. The position of the microlensing event detected by OGLE is marked with the black cross. Right:  $5\sigma$  sensitivity curve from OGLE-417. Any star with a magnitude difference from OGLE-417 of less than 6 at  $1''$  would have been significantly detected.

the ones of Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013). Finally, in Section 6, we draw our conclusion and discuss the results.

## 2. High-resolution imaging and spectroscopic observations of OGLE-417

### 2.1. Keck high-resolution observations

Boisse et al. (2015) suggested that the relative bright star detected in the UVES spectra is a blend star, chanced-aligned with OGLE-417 and not the lens. To test this hypothesis, we observed the target star with the NIRC2 adaptive optics (AO) instrument at the Keck II telescope. We collected 10 Ks-band exposures with the wide camera (exposure time 10 sec), and 10 exposures with the narrow camera (exposure time 40 sec). We also collected two exposures in the J- and H-band, both with narrow and wide cameras. We processed the data following our standard procedures (e.g. Batista et al. 2015). We display in Fig. 1 the Ks-band AO image at the coordinates of the microlensing event observed by OGLE. The target's PSF has a full width at half maximum (FWHM) of 130 mas. We have no clear evidence of a blend at the sub-arcsecond level. Using the method described in Lillo-Box et al. (2014), we derived the  $5\sigma$  upper-limit in the presence of a blend star (see Fig 1) which allow us to exclude any star within 6 magnitudes in the Ks-band at  $1''$  from OGLE-417. Note that the lens and the source were expected to be still unresolved at the time of the observation. As a consequence, the blend star, if it exists, should be aligned to within a few hundreds of mas from the lens and source stars.

We measured the magnitude of the target in the three bands that we cross-matched with the out-of-magnification VVV (Minniti et al. 2010) and the 2MASS (Cutri et al. 2003) data using isolated stars, following the approach described in Batista et al. (2015). The derived values are reported in Table 3. Since these magnitudes were calibrated with the VVV and 2MASS catalogs, they are in the Vega system <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The flux at magnitude zero in the Vega system are of 1594 Jy, 1024 Jy, and 666.8 Jy in the J, H, and Ks band (respectively)

### 2.2. Spectroscopic observations and data reduction

Since the blend star suggested by Boisse et al. (2015) was likely not detected in the Keck AO data, we decided to independently characterise the stars of the microlensing event OGLE-417. For this purpose, we used optical and near infrared (NIR) spectra of the target. The spectrum was then flux-calibrated to derive the SED.

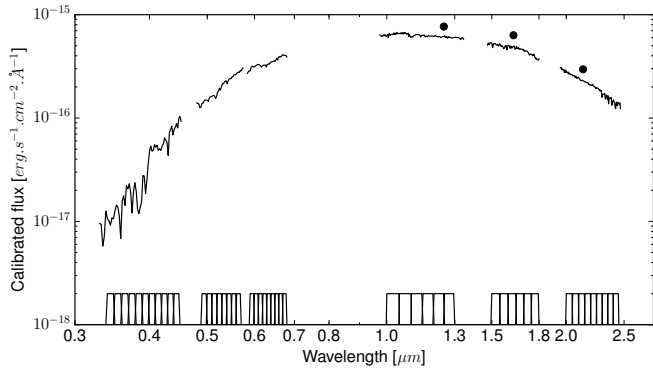
The optical part of the spectrum was obtained with the UVES high-resolution spectrograph of the ESO – VLT (Dekker et al. 2000), with the blue and red arms that cover from  $0.33\mu\text{m}$  to  $0.67\mu\text{m}$ . We used the spectra that were already presented in Boisse et al. (2015). This time however, we made use of the flux-calibrated spectra as reduced by the online pipeline (Freudling et al. 2013). For this purpose we selected the best UVES spectrum that was obtained at low airmass, good seeing (to limit the slit loss of flux), high signal-to-noise and with no nearby contaminant significantly detected in the cross-correlation functions computed by Boisse et al. (2015). This spectrum was obtained on 2014-07-25. The exposure time was one hour.

The NIR part of the spectrum was obtained with the ARCoIRIS spectrograph on the Blanco telescope at CTIO (Schlawin et al. 2014) during commissioning nights in June 2015. ARCoIRIS is the fourth generation of the TripleSpec instrument (Wilson et al. 2004; Herter et al. 2008), which simultaneously acquires 6 cross-dispersed orders covering  $0.8 - 2.4\mu\text{m}$  at a resolution of  $\sim 3500$ . It has a fixed slit of  $1.1'' \times 28''$  and no moving parts.

The observations were carried by placing the object at two different positions along the slit, A and B. Four exposures of 60 seconds were taken with an ABBA slit-nodding pattern. The spectra were reduced using a modified version of the Spextool reduction software (Cushing et al. 2004) for ARCoIRIS. Sky-subtraction was performed by differencing A and B exposures in each paired nod. Each sky-subtracted exposure was divided by a normalized master-flat field, constructed from calibration frames taken at the beginning of the night, and wavelength calibrated using OH sky-lines. The orders 3, 4, 5, and 6 for each exposure were extracted, covering a wavelength range of  $0.9 - 2.4\mu\text{m}$ . The 4 extracted exposures were combined and the resulting one-dimensional spectrum was telluric corrected and flux calibrated using observations of the A0V star HD 158422, obtained near in time and close in airmass to the target, with the IDL-based code `xtellcor` by Vacca et al. (2003).

We finally integrated the optical+NIR spectrum into small bands with a width of  $100 \text{ \AA}$  in the optical and  $500 \text{ \AA}$  in the NIR. These bands are displayed in the Fig. 2. This corresponds to spectral resolutions of  $\sim 50$  in the optical and  $\sim 40$  in the NIR. The choice of these band widths was driven by two reasons. First, the target OGLE-417 is an exceptionally bright microlensing event (Gould et al. 2013) that allows for high-resolution spectroscopic observations. Most microlensing events being much fainter, only low-resolution spectroscopy would be possible. By doing that, this technique could be applied to much fainter microlensing events. Second, we don't want to be sensitive to the presence weak stellar lines as they would add a high level of complexity into the model. We thus integrated the UVES spectrum as it was observed in low resolution. We removed the bands close or inside the UVES CCD gaps and the NIR water absorption bands. We then converted the flux into magnitude in the AB system<sup>2</sup> that we list in the Table 3. We propagated the errors from the data reduction and flux calibration to the final magnitudes. We

<sup>2</sup> The flux at magnitude zero is of 3631 Jy for all bands



**Fig. 2.** Flux-calibrated spectrum of the target OGLE-417. The optical part was obtained with UVES at the ESO-VLT and the NIR part was obtained with ARCoIRIS at the Blanco telescope at CTIO. The black dots are the photometric magnitudes in the J, H, and Ks bands (from left to right) as measured by the Keck AO observations. The difference of flux between the NIR spectrum and the Keck AO magnitudes is due to slit loss in the spectroscopic observation. The squares in the bottom of the plot indicate the bandpasses we used to measure the SED of the target. The spectrum displayed here was binned to 20 Å in the optical and 50 Å in the NIR.

finally added 20mmag of possible instrumental systematics to the errors.

### 3. SED Analysis

We used the PASTIS software (Díaz et al. 2014; Santerne et al. 2015) to model the SED. PASTIS is designed to validate transiting exoplanets by estimating their probability against false-positive scenarios (such as blended eclipsing binaries, see e.g. Santerne et al. 2014). It uses the SED to constrain the relative magnitude and color of potential blends. The modelling of the SED into the PASTIS software is fully described in Díaz et al. (2014). It has already been used in e.g. Moutou et al. (2014), Santerne et al. (2014), Armstrong et al. (2015), and Delrez et al. (2015). For the sake of clarity, we present below the modelling and analysis of the SED.

The SED was modelled with the BT-SETTL stellar atmosphere models of Allard et al. (2012) that we integrated into the same bandpasses as for the optical+NIR spectrum. We used the Dartmouth stellar evolution tracks from Dotter et al. (2008) to determine the stellar atmospheric parameters from the fundamental parameters. For the interstellar extinction, we used the model of Amôres & Lépine (2005) that we computed for the line of sight of OGLE-417. We added the interstellar extinction to the BT-SETTL models following the law of Fitzpatrick (1999).

We modelled the SED with a giant star in the Galactic bulge that is assumed to be the source of the microlensing event, and a foreground star that is chance-aligned within 1'' and thus, fully contributes to the SED<sup>3</sup>. We analysed the data through the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm of the PASTIS software which is described in Díaz et al. (2014). We used a Gaussian prior for the source star with typical parameters for a giant star in the bulge, i.e. a  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of  $4660 \pm 250$  K and a  $\log g$  of  $2.5 \pm 0.5$  dex, as in Shin et al. (2012). We assumed a prior for the mass of the foreground star following the initial mass function of Kroupa (2001). For the other parameters, we used non-

<sup>3</sup> The slit size of the UVES and ARCoIRIS observations were of 1'' and 1.1'', respectively.

informative priors. The interstellar extinction of the foreground star is fixed to the value from Amôres & Lépine (2005) which depends on the distance. For the source however, we let it as a free parameter in the analysis.

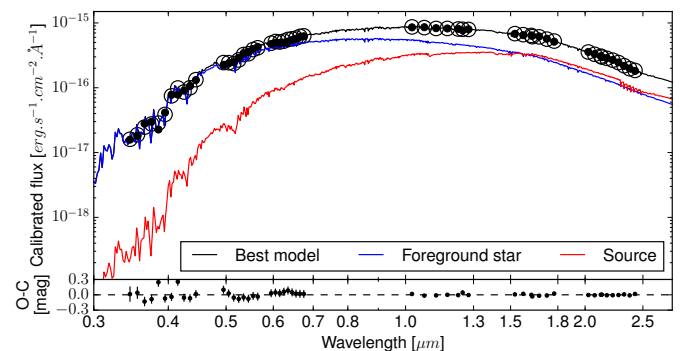
We cut the SED in three chunks: one for the optical magnitudes (derived from UVES), and two for the NIR magnitudes (one from the ARCoIRIS data and another one from the Keck AO magnitudes). We fit in the MCMC procedure a possible slit loss for the two sets of SED derived with the UVES and ARCoIRIS data. These two slit loss factors are constrained thanks to the Keck AO data. We also include an extra source of white noise for the magnitudes of the three sets of SED. These parameters were let free in the analysis. The entire list of parameters and their respective priors are reported in Table 1.

We ran 100 MCMC chains of  $10^6$  iterations randomly drawn from the joint prior distribution. All chains converged towards the same solution which is assumed to be the global maximum of the posterior. After removing for the burn-in phase, the chains were thinned and merged together. The final posterior distribution has more than 15000 independent samples. The median values and their 68.3% uncertainties are reported in Table 1.

We note that this method is different from the one presented in Mao et al. (1998) which requires observations at different epochs of the magnification. This method is similar to the one described in Tyndal et al. (2013) except that we used both flux-calibrated spectra and high spatial resolution imaging and not broadband aperture photometry.

### 4. Results

We find that the SED of OGLE-417 is well reproduced with a scenario of a giant source star located at  $8.77^{+0.90}_{-1.40}$  kpc, and a foreground star of about  $0.94 M_{\odot}$  at  $\sim 1.1$  kpc. The measured value of the interstellar extinction for the source star,  $E(B-V) = 1.21 \pm 0.16$ , which corresponds to  $A(I) = 1.90 \pm 0.25$  according to Fitzpatrick (1999), is in very good agreement with the value used by Shin et al. (2012) of  $A(I) \sim 2.0$ . The best fitted model is displayed in Fig. 3, together with the SED of the individual stars.



**Fig. 3.** Spectral energy distribution of OGLE-417 together with the best-fit model. The black dots are the measured SED while the open circles are the integrated model in the corresponding bandpasses. The black line is the best model that fit the spectroscopic data and the red and blue lines are the individual model of the source and foreground star (respectively). The bottom panel shows the residuals to the best fit.

From the posterior samples, we also derived the apparent magnitudes of both the foreground and source stars in different bandpasses that we report in Table 2. What we call the foreground star in our model has a V magnitude of  $\sim 17.7$  and is

bluer than the source which has a V magnitude of  $\sim 19.4$ . As a consequence, the bluest star with a deep line profile detected by Boisse et al. (2015, see their Fig. 2) is the foreground star and the reddest star with a shallow line profile is the microlensing source. This is the opposite of what they reported, which was based on the incorrect color information published by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013). This does not affect the result of Boisse et al. (2015), only the sign of their radial velocity curve.

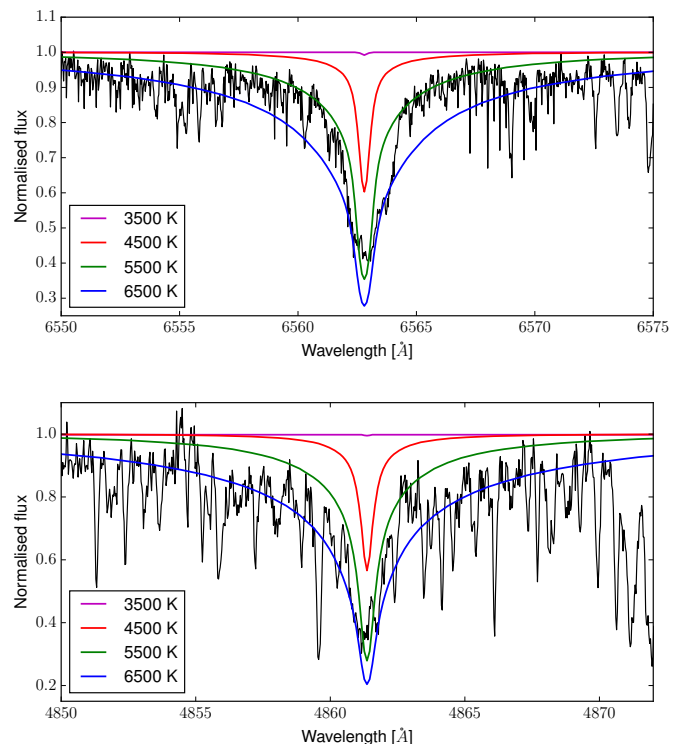
Using the Dartmouth evolution tracks, we derived from the posterior samples that the foreground star has a  $T_{\text{eff}} = 5430 \pm 140$  K, a  $\log g = 4.46^{+0.08}_{-0.12}$  cm.s $^{-2}$ , and the metallicity reported in Table 1. This corresponds to a mid-G dwarf. As a sanity check of our results, we co-added the high-resolution UVES spectra, after correcting for the barycentric Earth radial velocity and from the systemic radial velocity of the foreground star, as measured by Boisse et al. (2015). We then normalised it in the vicinity of the  $T_{\text{eff}}$ -sensitive Balmer  $H_\alpha$  and  $H_\beta$  lines. This co-added spectrum is displayed in Fig. 4. At these wavelengths, the foreground star is the brightest star, and should dominate the spectrum. However, the contribution from the source star which is red-shifted by about 42 km.s $^{-1}$  (hence of about 1 Å, Boisse et al. 2015) is clearly visible in the red part of the  $H_\alpha$  spectrum. It makes the analysis of the high-resolution spectrum with classical spectroscopic techniques (e.g. Sousa 2014, and references therein) not reliable. Given that the source is a cool, giant star, the shape of the  $H_\alpha$  blue wing of the foreground star is not expected to be substantially affected. Given that the flux ratio between both stars is higher in the blue, the source contribution in the  $H_\beta$  line is expected to be significantly lower than the one of  $H_\alpha$ .

We compared this high-resolution spectrum with theoretical LTE models from Kurucz (1993)<sup>4</sup> for  $T_{\text{eff}}$  ranging from 3500 K to 6500 K and a fixed  $\log g$  of 4.5 cm.s $^{-2}$  (see Fig. 4). These basic models are supposed to reproduce correctly the relative intensity and the wings of the Balmer lines (Ammler-von Eiff & Santos 2008). As displayed in Fig. 4, the blue wing of  $H_\alpha$  line and the  $H_\beta$  line of the foreground star correspond to the one of a mid-G dwarf, with a  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of about 5500 K. A cooler or hotter star would have produced a weaker or stronger line (respectively). This fully supports the results of our SED analysis.

As a second sanity check for our results, we compared the magnitude of the foreground + source stars in the I band as predicted by our SED model with the one observed by Shin et al. (2012). This constraint was not used in our SED analysis. Shin et al. (2012) reported an out-of-magnification apparent I-band magnitude of 15.74<sup>5</sup>. No associated error nor the reference system (Vega or AB) is provided with this magnitude. In the Vega system, our model predicts that the apparent I-band magnitude of the foreground+source stars is of  $15.16 \pm 0.06$  (see Table 2). In the AB system (Oke 1974), the apparent I-band magnitude of this system is of  $15.67 \pm 0.06$ . As a consequence, our model is in perfect agreement with the magnitude measured by OGLE in the I band, assuming it is provided in the AB system.

## 5. Is the foreground star the lens or a blend ?

In our SED analysis, we find that the foreground star, the one for which radial velocity were measured by Boisse et al. (2015), is a mid-G dwarf at about 1 kpc. In this section we discuss the nature of this foreground star in the context of the microlensing event. In Fig. 5 we show the posterior distribution of the foreground



**Fig. 4.** High-resolution, co-added and normalised UVES spectrum of OGLE-417 (in black) of the temperature-sensitive  $H_\alpha$  (top) and  $H_\beta$  (bottom) lines. Four models from Kurucz (1993) of the Balmer line profile for  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of 3500 K (magenta), 4500 K (red), 5500 K (green), and 6500 K (blue) are also displayed. The red wing of the  $H_\alpha$  line has an asymmetric shape due to the presence of the source star. The contrast between the foreground and source star is higher in the blue (see Fig. 3). Thus, the contribution from the source is lower for the  $H_\beta$  line.

star together with the position of the lens primary as predicted by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013). The mass of the foreground star we derived is significantly different (by more than  $4\sigma$ ) from the masses of the lens primary as reported by these authors. This could be explained by two main reasons: (1) the foreground star is a fourth, blend star, chance-aligned with the source and the lens binary, as suggested by Boisse et al. (2015), (2) the foreground star is the lens and its parameters were incorrectly determined in both Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013).

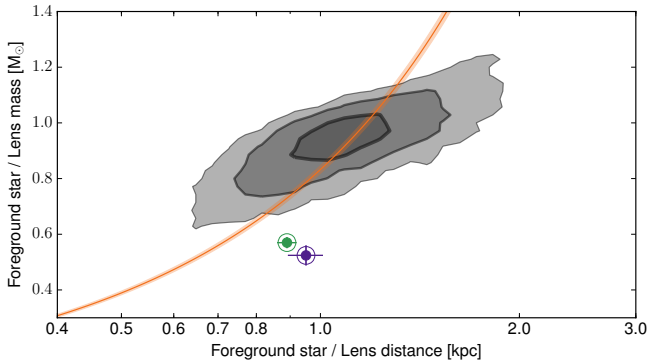
The first scenario could explain the absence of radial velocity variation reported by Boisse et al. (2015), as the lens would be too faint to be detected in the UVES data. To test this scenario, we analysed the SED using a more complex model composed of a source, a foreground star, and a faint binary system that would correspond to the lens. There is no evidence in the data for this faint binary system, either bound or not with the foreground star, so we can not rule it out.

Even if the density of stars is very high towards the galactic center, it is quite unlikely, *a priori*, to have a system with a source star, a binary lens, and a blend star chance aligned within the constraints of the Keck AO observations (see Fig. 1). In the Ks band, the blend has a magnitude of  $13.87 \pm 0.22$ . We collected all the stars listed in the VVV DR1 (Minniti et al. 2010) that are within  $1^\circ$  of OGLE-417. We assume here an homogeneous distribution of the stars within this  $1^\circ$  of radius. We estimated that the *a priori* probability to have a blend star in the range

<sup>4</sup> <http://kurucz.harvard.edu/grids/gridp01/bp01k2.datcd>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ogle.astrouw.edu.pl/ogle4/ews/2011/blg-0417.html>





**Fig. 5.** Posterior distribution of the foreground star mass as a function of its distance. The grey regions correspond to the 68.3%, 95.5%, and 99.7% (from dark to light greys) of confidence intervals. The green and purple marks are the positions of the lens primary as reported by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013), respectively. The orange line shows the lens total mass vs distance relation for  $\Theta_E = 2.44 \pm 0.02$  mas and  $d_S = 8.2$  kpc.

$K_S \in [13.21 ; 14.53]$  (hence within  $3\sigma$  of the value derived by the SED analysis and within the  $5\sigma$  sensitivity curve shown in Fig. 1), is at the level of 110ppm. Given that there is no evidence in the SED for a M dwarf binary at  $\sim 900$  pc and that the presence of a chance-aligned blend star is *a priori* unlikely, we reject this scenario.

The second scenario is apparently not compatible with the absence of radial velocity variation observed by Boisse et al. (2015). Indeed, if the foreground star is the lens, it would have exhibit significant radial velocity variations, unless the system parameters derived by the analysis of the microlensing light curve are incorrect. However, it is interesting to note that Shin et al. (2012) reported an Einstein radius of the microlensing event to be  $\Theta_E = 2.44 \pm 0.02$  mas. It is related to the lens physical parameters following the mass-distance relation (Gould 2000):

$$M_T = \Theta_E^2 \frac{c^2}{4G} d_L \left(1 - \frac{d_L}{d_S}\right)^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

where  $M_T$  is the total mass of the lens system and  $d_L$  and  $d_S$  are the distances of the lens and the source (respectively). We find that our constraints on the foreground star are perfectly compatible with this mass-distance relation for  $d_S = 8.2$  kpc and assuming a negligible mass for the lens companion (see Fig 5). We therefore conclude that this foreground star is likely the lens, and that the system parameters derived by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013) are incorrect. In this scenario, the lens companion needs to have a low mass, or the orbit needs a high inclination to explain the absence of significant radial velocities variation found by Boisse et al. (2015).

A third scenario might also be drawn, in which the foreground star is bound with a pair of faint M dwarfs. In this scenario, the lens would be a hierarchical triple system. It is however expected that such triple system would have significantly affected the microlensing light curve, leading to incorrect parameters as derived by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013) in their binary model.

If the lens system parameters reported by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013) are incorrect, it is likely that the value for the Einstein radius is also incorrect. This would limit the above comparison. Using our constraints on the mass and distance for

the foreground star, assumed here to be the lens, and considering it has a companion with a mass ratio ranging from zero to one, we can use the equation 1 to constrain  $\Theta_E$ . In this case, we find that  $\Theta_E \in [1.9; 3.6]$  mas to be compatible within  $3\sigma$  of our spectroscopic results.

## 6. Discussion and conclusions

In this paper, we used an optical+NIR low-resolution ( $R \sim 40 - 50$ ) flux-calibrated spectrum obtained with the UVES (ESO – VLT) and ARCoIRIS (Blanco telescope – CTIO) spectrographs to analyse the SED of the microlensing event OGLE-417. We estimate the slit loss of these spectra using the uncontaminated magnitude of the target in the J, H, and Ks bands measured with the Keck AO facility NIRC2. This also allowed us to constrain the absence of additional stars in the immediate vicinity of the target.

We find that the SED is compatible with a scenario of a source giant as predicted by Shin et al. (2012) and a foreground star of  $\sim 0.94 M_\odot$  located at  $\sim 1.1$  kpc. This foreground star is the one observed in radial velocity by Boisse et al. (2015) together with the source star. Its parameters are fully compatible with the mass and distance of the lens assuming an Einstein radius of  $\Theta_E = 2.44 \pm 0.02$  mas (Shin et al. 2012), a source at 8.2 kpc, and a very-low companion mass. This is however not compatible with the lens parameters derived by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013). A reanalysis of this microlensing light curve is mandatory to fully understand the discrepancies between its modelling and the spectroscopic results (Boisse et al. 2015, and this work). This is however out of the scope of this paper.

The information provided by Shin et al. (2012) and Gould et al. (2013) suggests that the modeling effort was not sufficient to find all the possible solutions. There is no indication of an effort to probe for multiple solutions in the orbital and microlensing parallax parameter space. Some degeneracy between the orbital motion and parallax effects is to be expected, but there is no discussion of this. There is also no indication of the exploration of alternate models, such as triple lens models or binary source models. Finally, some of the reported error bars are suspiciously small, such as the error bar on the line-of-sight separation at 2% of the Einstein radius. This is 30 times smaller than the uncertainty reported by Skowron et al. (2011), and it suggests that the MCMC used by Shin et al. (2012) is not well mixed and weakly account for correlated parameter space.

This paper also demonstrates that the spectroscopic characterisation of microlensing events is possible by fitting spectral energy distributions to a low-resolution, flux-calibrated spectrum. This technique could support the characterisation of microlensing events by providing independent constraints on the source, lens, and possible blend star properties, and thus help to break some degeneracies in the analyses. For that, it is however important to have a spectrum covering the optical and NIR wavelengths. In case of crowded fields, AO observations are also important to calibrate the slit loss and the absolute flux of the target. Low-resolution UV-to-NIR spectrographs like X-SHOOTER (Vernet et al. 2011) at the ESO – VLT, with a magnitude limit down to about 21, would allow one to use this method to characterise all of the microlensing events.

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**Table 2.** Apparent magnitudes of the foreground and source stars derived from the posterior distribution.

Band	Foreground	Source	Foreground+Source
B	$19.27 \pm 0.17$	$21.72 \pm 0.72$	$19.16 \pm 0.10$
V	$17.70 \pm 0.20$	$19.40 \pm 0.58$	$17.49 \pm 0.09$
R	$16.53 \pm 0.20$	$17.64 \pm 0.44$	$16.19 \pm 0.07$
I	$15.64 \pm 0.20$	$16.30 \pm 0.34$	$15.16 \pm 0.06$
J	$14.64 \pm 0.21$	$14.76 \pm 0.24$	$13.94 \pm 0.05$
H	$14.06 \pm 0.21$	$13.86 \pm 0.20$	$13.20 \pm 0.05$
Ks	$13.87 \pm 0.22$	$13.55 \pm 0.17$	$12.94 \pm 0.05$

**Notes.** All these magnitudes are provided in the Vega system assuming a zero-magnitude flux of 4024 Jy, 3563 Jy, 2815 Jy, 2283 Jy, 1594 Jy, 1024 Jy, and 667 Jy for the B, V, R, I, J, H, and Ks band (respectively).

**Table 3.** Magnitudes of the target OGLE-2011-BLG-0417. The spectral bands J, H, and Ks are referenced in the Vega system, while the other ones are referenced in the AB system, i.e. the zero-magnitude corresponds to a flux of 3631 Jy. The spectral domains of the custom bands are expressed in Angstrom. The lines indicate the limits between the three sets of SED.

Spectral band	Magnitude	Error
J	13.98	0.05
H	13.16	0.03
Ks	12.94	0.03
3400 – 3500	22.372	0.129
3500 – 3600	22.163	0.091
3600 – 3700	21.637	0.053
3700 – 3800	21.501	0.043
3800 – 3900	21.744	0.045
3900 – 4000	21.035	0.030
4000 – 4100	20.296	0.024
4100 – 4200	20.235	0.023
4200 – 4300	20.027	0.023
4300 – 4400	19.801	0.023
4400 – 4500	19.522	0.023
4900 – 5000	18.717	0.021
5000 – 5100	18.605	0.020
5100 – 5200	18.513	0.020
5200 – 5300	18.306	0.020
5300 – 5400	18.087	0.020
5400 – 5500	17.991	0.020
5500 – 5600	17.845	0.020
5600 – 5700	17.723	0.020
5900 – 6000	17.500	0.020
6000 – 6100	17.414	0.020
6100 – 6200	17.383	0.020
6200 – 6300	17.343	0.020
6300 – 6400	17.267	0.020
6400 – 6500	17.174	0.020
6500 – 6600	17.089	0.020
6600 – 6700	16.985	0.020
6700 – 6800	16.929	0.020
10000 – 10500	15.511	0.021
10500 – 11000	15.402	0.021
11000 – 11500	15.340	0.021
11500 – 12000	15.257	0.020
12000 – 12500	15.182	0.020
12500 – 13000	15.112	0.021
15000 – 15500	14.899	0.020
15500 – 16000	14.880	0.020
16000 – 16500	14.822	0.020
16500 – 17000	14.794	0.020
17000 – 17500	14.822	0.020
17500 – 18000	14.872	0.021
20000 – 20500	14.979	0.021
20500 – 21000	15.009	0.021
21000 – 21500	15.041	0.021
21500 – 22000	15.064	0.021
22000 – 22500	15.085	0.021
22500 – 23000	15.134	0.021
23000 – 23500	15.220	0.022
23500 – 24000	15.271	0.023
24000 – 24500	15.320	0.032

**Table 1.** Priors and posteriors defined in the PASTIS analyses:  $\mathcal{U}(a, b)$  represents a Uniform prior between  $a$  and  $b$ ;  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  represents a Normal distribution with a mean of  $\mu$  and a width of  $\sigma^2$ ;  $\mathcal{P}(\alpha; x_{min}, x_{max})$  represents a Power Law distribution with an exponent  $\alpha$  computed between  $x_{min}$  and  $x_{max}$ ;  $\mathcal{P}_2(\alpha_1; \alpha_2; x_0; x_{min}; x_{max})$  represents a double Power Law distribution with an exponent  $\alpha_1$  computed between  $x_{min}$  and  $x_0$  and an exponent  $\alpha_2$  computed between  $x_0$  and  $x_{max}$ ; and finally  $\mathcal{S}(a, b)$  represents a Sine distribution between  $a$  and  $b$ .

Parameter	Prior	Posterior
<i>Source star</i>		
Effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}}$ [K]	$\mathcal{N}(4660; 250)$	$4585 \pm 140$
Surface gravity $\log g$ [ $\text{g.cm}^{-2}$ ]	$\mathcal{N}(2.5; 0.5)$	$2.54 \pm 0.16$
Iron abundance $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]_S$ [dex]	$\mathcal{U}(-2.5; 0.5)$	$0.10 \pm 0.34$
Distance $D_S$ [pc]	$\mathcal{P}(2; 6000; 10000)$	$8770^{+900}_{-1400}$
Interstellar extinction $E(B - V)$ [mag]	$\mathcal{U}(1; 5)$	$1.21 \pm 0.16$
<i>Foreground / Lens star</i>		
Initial mass $M_L$ [ $M_{\odot}$ ]	$\mathcal{P}_2(-1.3; -2.3; 0.5; 0.1; 20)$	$0.94 \pm 0.09$
Iron abundance $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]_L$ [dex]	$\mathcal{U}(-2.5; 0.5)$	$0.17^{+0.19}_{-0.28}$
Age $\tau_L$ [Gyr]	$\mathcal{U}(0.1; 13.7)$	$7.3 \pm 4.5$
Distance $D_L$ [pc]	$\mathcal{P}(2; 10; 6000)$	$1070 \pm 240$
<i>Others</i>		
Optical extra white noise $\sigma_{OPT}$ [mag]	$\mathcal{U}(0; 1)$	$0.09 \pm 0.02$
NIR extra white noise $\sigma_{NIR}$ [mag]	$\mathcal{U}(0; 1)$	$0.005^{+0.005}_{-0.003}$
Keck AO extra white noise $\sigma_{keck}$ [mag]	$\mathcal{U}(0; 1)$	$0.06^{+0.12}_{-0.04}$
Fraction of UVES flux $f_{UVES}$	$\mathcal{U}(0; 1)$	$0.66 \pm 0.06$
Fraction of ARCoIRIS flux $f_{ARCoIRIS}$	$\mathcal{U}(0; 1)$	$0.76 \pm 0.04$